

**RULES AND SELECTIONS
COMMITTEE**

TERESA Y. HILLERY
CHAIR

MEMBERS
LORI ALIKSANIAN
DENNIS FRIED
RENE LEDEZMA
SHANRIKA MCCLAIN

JENS MIDTHUN
EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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**DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
RULES AND SELECTIONS COMMITTEE
DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Teresa.Y.Hillery@dlanc.com for more information

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Secretaria Terin Ngo por correo electrónico Terin.Ngo@dlanc.com para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OCTOBER 6, 2023 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 411 (PORTANTINO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023, this NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY.

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call 6:40 p.m.

(Teresa Y. Hillery (Chair)	P*	Shanrika McClain	P
Lori Aliksanian	A	Jens Midthun (Ex-Officio)	P*
Dennis Fried	P	Quorum? P* = w/in LA; P = outside LA; A = absent	YES
Rene Ledezma	P		

2. **General Public Comment:**

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NONE

3. **Chair's Welcome / Introductions**

- Teresa Y Hillery welcomed everyone and each member briefly shared their professional background. Paul Gamberg was added to the Committee.
- Jens Midthun emphasized the importance of the Rules and Selection Committee's role in updating the bylaws every two years and stressed the need to communicate with Empower LA for approval of any changes to avoid rejection.

4. **Old Business - None**

5. **New Business**

a. **Discussion on Purpose of the Committee/Mission Statements**

- i. "The mission of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (DLANC) is to unite the diverse communities of Downtown Los Angeles and to provide an innovative forum for all community

stakeholders to contribute to a healthy, vibrant, and inclusive Downtown.”

- Teresa Y Hillery reviewed DLANC’s mission statement.

- ii. “The Rules and Selections Committee shall review and recommend proposed amendments to these Bylaws and Standing Rules and oversee the selection process to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors.”

- Teresa Y Hillery clarified the Rules and Selections Committee’s purpose, noting the Committee’s role in thoroughly vetting nominees for open seats.
- Rene Ledezma emphasized the need for passionate and vetted individuals on the board.
- Jens Midthun agreed with the need for a high bar for council members, noting that problematic board members can derail progress.

b. Discussion on Committee Goals/Objectives

- i. Establish clear, equitable bylaws and rules that reflect DLANC’s mission and values.
- ii. Develop fair and inclusive criteria and recommendation process for board “Open Seat” selections.
 - The Committee agreed on the primary goals.
 - Rene Ledezma clarified that the committee would comprehensively review all governing documents, including bylaws, rules, and operating procedures.

c. Discussion on Committee Expectations/Norms

- i. Members will come prepared, engage respectfully, and contribute constructively.
- ii. Members will engage in active listening and respectful dialogue as our standard practice. Disagreements are welcomed as part of healthy deliberation.
- iii. Members will participate in note-taking on a rotating basis to ensure shared responsibilities.

- The Committee agreed with the expectations/norms, and the proposed recommendations will be well researched and fact-based.
- Members agreed to rotate note-taking responsibilities for meetings and agenda posting to ensure shared workload; Rene Ledezma volunteered for the next meeting.
- Paul Gamberg suggested recording live meetings to improve note-taking accuracy.

d. Discussion and Brainstorm issues and topics for potential amendments to our governing documents (Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Operating Procedures); Discuss potential amendments process.

- Jens Midthun outlined two approaches for making changes to the bylaws: "bottom up" and "top down". The bottom-up approach involves a close reading of the bylaws to identify discrepancies and issues, while the top-down approach focuses on addressing past issues experienced by the board, possibly through interviewing board members or soliciting feedback.
- The following are brainstormed topics/issues:
 - Election reform
 - Adjusting the quorum level to account for vacant seats
 - Removing a loophole allowing anyone to request agenda items
 - Clarifying committee names and responsibilities
 - Establishing a maximum number of times an alternate can fill in for a board member
 - Determine whether alternates can serve for committee members
 - Process for filling vacancies
 - Clarify the mandatory training requirements and consequences for non-compliance.
 - Analyze committee structure; mandating having odd numbers for voting purposes

- Staggered board terms to maintain institutional memory
- Reviewing the definition of a stakeholder to ensure two-way communication and emphasize the role of residents and workers.

e. Discussion and possible action on the frequency and location of the Rules and Selections committee meetings.

- Rene Ledezma offered a private location that could accommodate in-person and virtual attendees. Reeyan Raynes clarified that due to ADA compliance and city regulations, private facilities cannot be used for meetings, and only approved city facilities like the Little Tokyo and Central libraries are permitted.
- The Committee decided to meet every two to three weeks to meet the spring deadline; Teresa Y Hillery will confirm the timeline.

6. General Public Comment:

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N/A

7. Committee member announcements

NONE

8. Next Meeting: September 29, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m. (Virtual); Notetaker: Rene Ledezma

9. Adjournment 7:40 p.m.

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CONSENT ITEMS: There will be no separate discussion of Consent items as they are considered routine and will be adopted by one motion. If a member of the Board, Committee, or a stakeholder requests discussion on a particular item, that item will be removed from Consent and considered separately. Such items will be moved to the end of the agenda.

NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES: If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics@lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS: In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed on our website by clicking on the following link: www.dlanc.com, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the secretary, terin.ngo@dlanc.com.

POSTING: In compliance with Government Code section 54954.2(a), Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review at Department of Recreation & Parks - Pershing Square Office, 532 S. Olive and at www.dlanc.com. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at: <https://www.lacity.org/government/subscribe-agendasnotifications/neighborhood-councils>.

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: For information on the DLANC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the DLANC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.dlanc.com.

DISABILITY POLICY: The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at (213) 978-1551 or email NCsupport@lacity.org.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 403 (Amended by Stats, 1994, Ch. 923, Sec. 159. Effective January 1, 1995.)

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Every person who, without authority of law willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character, other than an assembly or meeting referred to in Section 302 of the Penal Code or Section 18340 of the Elections Code, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

SB411 UPDATES: If a Neighborhood Council has a quorum of board members in a physical location, board members who wish to join the meeting via teleconferencing must adhere to AB 2449 rules and regulations. If a Neighborhood Council does not have a quorum of board members in a physical location, they must adhere to SB 411 rules and regulations. In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1. The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time. Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate. (i) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph , to

provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed. (ii) An eligible legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment. (iii) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.